किसी भी बैराज परियोजना को राष्ट्रीय परियोजना घोषित करने का सरकार का कोई निर्णय नहीं है ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

Constitution of Panel for Inter-Linking of Rivers

4254. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to constitute a panel of expert engineers to prepare a plan to inter-connect all rivers in the country, to transfer surplus water to deficit basins and to avert recurring flood fury in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the panel is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the other measures taken by the National Water Development Agency for inter-linking of rivers to prevent floods and optimise the irrigation potential of the rivers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) A National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan was set up by the Ministry of Water Resources vide O.M. No. 2/U/96-BM645-661, dt. 13.9.1996.

The present Composition of the Commission is as under:—

1. Dr. S.R. Hashim : Chairman
Member,
Planning Commission
2. Shri V. Ramachandran: Member
Ex-Chief Secretary
Govt, of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
3. Dr. V.'S. Vyas: Member
(Economist)
Director,
Institute of Development
Studies, 8-B Jhalana
Institutional Area,
Jaipur-302 004.
4. Dr. D.N. Tewari, : Member
Ex-Chancellor,
F.R.I. (Deemed University)
Dehradun (UP).
5. Shri S. Prakash, : Member
Ex-Engineer-in-Chief,
Delhi Water Supply &
Sewage Disposal
Undertaking.
6. Shri C.C. Patel : Member
Ex-Secretary (WR)
Govt, of India
7. Dr. Bharat Singh : Member
Vice-Chancellor
(Retd.)
University of Roorkee
8. Shri S.P. Chaprihan : Member
Engineer-in-Chief
(Retd.) Govt, of
M.P.
9. Director General, : Member
National Water Secretary
Development Agency
(NWDA), New Delhi.

Other experts are being co-opted as Members or being associated with nine Working Groups, as required to assist the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission are as under:

i) To prepare an Integrated Water Plan for development of water resources for Drinking, Irrigation, Industrial, Flood Control and other uses;

ii) To suggest modalities for transfer of surplus water to water-deficit basin by inter-linking of rivers for achieving the above objectives;

iii) To identify important On-going Projects as well as New Projects which should be completed on

priority basis together with phasing;

iv) Identify a technological and interdisciplinary research plan for the water sector with a view to maximise the benefits;

v) To suggest physical and financial resource generation strategies for the water sector;

vi) Any other related issue.

(c) The Report is likely to be submitted in two years time.

(d) National Water Development Agency, an organisation of the Ministry of Water Resources has identified 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component and 19 under the Himalayan Rivers Development Component.

Pre-feasibility reports of all the 36 links have been completed.

Feasibility reports of 3 links under the Peninsular components namely; Par-Tapi-Narmada, Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar link and Ken-Betwa link have been completed.

Review of Ganga water sharing treaty

4255. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have aware that a sharp decline in the discharge of water from the Farakka barrage since the first week of March has threatened to harm Calcutta Port's interests, both long and short term;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the Ganga water sharing treaty with Bangladesh in the national interest; and

(c) whether the matter was discussed in the meeting of the Joint River Commission held recently to review the situation over the sharing of Ganga water etc. between the two countries, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The low flow arrival of less than 50,000 cusec at Farakka occured on 22nd March, 1997 and remained upto 4th April, 1997. The Government of India immediately initiated action for holding discussions with Bangladesh on the adjustments to be made in the sharing arrangments in compliance with Article II (iii) of the Treaty of sharing of Ganga waters at Farakka signed by India and Bangladesh on 12.12.1996.

(c) No meeting of the Joint River Commission has been held recently. However, discussions were held with Bangladesh officials in Delhi on 26th and 27th March, 1997, and at Dhaka on 6th and 7th April, 1997 but no decision could be taken. Action is now being taken to establish a procedure to tackle such situations.

जल सिंचाई परियोजनाओं पर प्रशासनिक व्यय में वृद्धि

4256. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में जल सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के संचालन और अनुरक्षण पर किये गये समग्र व्यय में प्रशासनिक शीर्ष पर किया जाने वाला व्यय कई वर्षों से निरंतर बढ़ता रहा है,

(ख) यदि हां,तो इस संबंध में सरकार का निर्धारण क्या है, और

(ग) आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान इन परियोजनाओं के संचालन और अनुरक्षण पर व्यय में कितने प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): (क) जी, हां।